

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1325
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2006
TELECAST OF NEWS IN RURAL AREAS
Mandal Shri Sanat Kumar

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the news telecast by Doordarshan (DD) channels of various States are reaching the remotest rural areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to enable DD news to cover all the remotest rural areas of the country, especially in West Bengal?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. DASMUNSI)

(a) to (d) : Regional channels of Doordarshan (including DD Bangla) and DD News are part of Doordarshan's DTH bouquet and can be received anywhere in the country (except A&N Islands) with the help of small sized dish receive unit.

Three High Power Transmitters at Asansol, Kolkata and Murshidabad are already in operation. Besides, two more Low Power Transmitters are functioning at : Basanti and Shantiniketan in West Bengal. In terrestrial mode, DD News channel coverage is available to about 46.4% population of the country while for the state of West Bengal alone, its coverage is available to about 58.3% of the population. For further expansion of DD News channel coverage in West Bengal, a high power transmitter is under implementation at Kurseong.